

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY  
DECEMBER 18, 2019**

**ITEM 2**

**SUBJECT**

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CHIEF DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OR DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO EXECUTE AN INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL AUTHORITY TO MEET THE REQUESTED PERMITTING SCHEDULE.

**DISCUSSION**

The 401 Certification Program at the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) regulates discharges of dredged and fill material to all waters of the state under the authorities of both the Clean Water Act (CWA) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The California High Speed Rail Authority (HSRA), is responsible for planning, designing, building and operating the nation's first high-speed rail system. Proposition 1A, which provided funding for the high-speed rail project, included funding directives that require the HSRA to expedite the permitting process for the statewide high speed rail project.

In August 2016, the Board adopted [Resolution No. 2016-0041](#) which authorized the Executive Director to execute a three-year interagency agreement to fund additional permitting staff required to support the expedited permitting process. This agreement is nearing its end date and given the scope and complexity of the high speed rail project, the number of environmental documents requiring review, and the number of permits to be issued, the additional State Water Board resources provided by the existing agreement are still needed to meet the HSRA's project development deadlines.

The State Water Board and the HSRA have drafted an amendment to the interagency agreement to increase funding and extend the funding term. With approval of this updated agreement, the State Water Board will have sufficient resources to review the environmental documents and develop the permits needed to support the HSRA's requested development schedule.

**POLICY ISSUE**

Should the State Water Resources Control Board authorize continued funding for 401 certification unit staff?

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Staff work associated with or resulting from the action can be accomplished within updated agreement budgeted resources.

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

**None.**

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the resolution to authorize the Executive Director, Chief Deputy Director, or Deputy Director of the Division of Administrative Services to execute an amended interagency agreement with HSRA to meet the HSRA requested permitting schedule.